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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Ronghua Wei et al.

Filed: March 26, 2004

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING A NITRIDE LAYER  
ON A BIOMEDICAL DEVICE

Serial No.: 10/811,485

Group Art Unit: 1762

Examiner: Unknown

Atty Dkt: SWRI:003 (3020)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.8, I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a first class, postage prepaid envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on the date below:

8-11-04  
Date

Alleli Ferrara  
Name

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the document(s) listed on attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record.

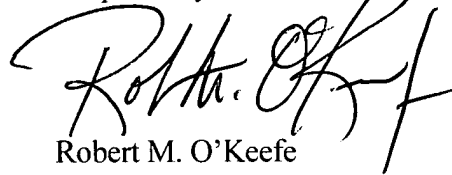
In accordance with 37 C.F.R §§ 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed to be an admission that (a) the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b); and/or (b) that the information cited is, or is considered to be prior art.

The present Information and Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of a first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits, and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to these materials, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. 10-1205/

A copy of the listed document(s) required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed document(s) be made of record in the present case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robt. O'Keefe", written over a horizontal line.

Robert M. O'Keefe

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Enclosures

**Form PTO-1449** (modified)Atty. Docket No.  
SWRI:003 (3020)Serial No.  
10/811,485

List of Patents and Publications for Applicant's

Applicant  
Ronghua Wei et al.**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Filing Date:  
March 26, 2004Group:  
1762U.S. Patent Documents  
See Page 1Foreign Patent Documents  
See Page N/AOther Art  
See Page N/A**U.S. Patent Documents**

Exam. Init.	Ref. Des.	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date if App.
	A1	5,289,831	3/1/94	Bosley	128	899	
	A2	5,308,412	5/3/94	Shetty et al.	148	238	
	A3	5,372,660	12/13/94	Davidson et al.	148	421	
	A4	5,380,547	1/10/94	Higgins	427	2.26	
	A5	5,843,289	12/1/98	Lee et al.	204	192.3	
	A6	5,855,950	1/5/99	Bunker	427	2.27	
	A7	5,980,974	11/9/99	Armini et al.	427	2.27	
	A8	6,033,582	3/7/00	Lee et al.	216	37	
	A9	6,395,327	5/28/02	Shetty	427	2.26	
	A10	6,402,901	6/11/02	Baldwin et al.	204	192.11	
	A11	6,464,889	10/15/02	Lee et al.	216	37	
	A12	6,548,104	4/15/03	Pappas	427	2.26	
	A13	6,582,470	6/24/03	Lee et al.	623	23.55	

**Foreign Patent Documents**

Exam. Init.	Ref. Des.	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes/No
	B1						

**Other Art (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

Exam. Init.	Ref. Des.	Citation
	C1	

Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.